

Point Three



The Toc H magazine
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ANNIVERSARY WALK

(pages 8-9)

Point Three

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Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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One of the boys from Lowdham Grange who will be doing a sponsored walk in aid of Stoke Mandeville Hospital, pictured with Jimmy Savile OBE, See centre page feature in this issue.

Photo: Scott Shaw



Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird-watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House: the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four-fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points – to think fairly.

From the Editor

THE ABORTION DEBATE

As I write, John Corrie's Bill amending the 1967 Abortion Act looks like failing through lack of time.

Outside the House, feelings are running high. Supporters of the new Bill are lobbying MPs, and are starting to lobby the Leader of the House demanding 'government time' for this Private Member's Bill. Opponents are also lobbying besides mounting noisy demonstrations: last Friday they raised Cain in the gallery of the House. When you read MPs' speeches, the fuss of both sets of demonstrators seems puzzling. Speakers produce sets of conflicting statistics and discuss quite calmly the precise point at which an unborn child can live apart from the mother. The arguments sound not unlike those wage negotiations which always end in compromise! If these impressions correspond with reality, it would be hard to explain the strident support from such bodies as 'Life' for what seems to be the mildly amending Corrie legislation and the bitter and sustained opposition to it from extreme groups on the other side. But the fact is that people are not always saying what they mean. Let us look first briefly at what is being said, and then try to look beyond it to what is meant.

Supporters of the 1967 David Steel Act see it as a major reform. By halting the indignities and the countless deaths of mothers associated with illegal 'back street' abortions, the Act has greatly diminished the sum of human misery. It has also reduced the number of unwanted children. Admittedly, there have been 1.25 million legal abortions since 1967 – 120,000 of them in the last year alone. But, it is said, there were nearly as many legal and illegal abortions before – possibly 100,000 a year – and many of these resulted in the death of the mother from sepsis. Early abuses of the Act have been checked so that, in 1974, the high powered Lane Committee could say, '*We have no doubt that the gains facilitated by the 1967 Act have outweighed any disadvantages.*' Recent opinion polls suggest that this view is shared by more than 60% of younger women – including a majority of Roman Catholic younger women.

Supporters of the present Bill argue that the Steel Act has resulted in the calm acceptance of hundreds of abortions each day – many of them illegal in the light of the intention of that Act. The medical reasons for abortion, they say, need strengthening. At present, they are so vague as to be meaningless, so that in practice there is abortion on demand in many parts of the country. This was not, they point out, the intention of the 1967 Act: indeed that Act passed only after David Steel had undertaken that it would *not* open the door to abortion on request. The Act requires two doctors to certify that continued pregnancy would carry a risk of physical or mental injury to the mother (or her other children) greater than the risk if the baby is aborted. Since a proper medical abortion, it is argued, is always statistically less risky than normal childbirth, many doctors can and do provide abortion on demand – whatever the intention of the original legislators.

This reasonable debate ignores two facts. One is that we live in an age of pressure groups. The other is that the 1967 Act produced a significant change in our attitude towards abortion. It is that change which produces the violence of feeling of the pressure groups on both sides. For a very long time (in Western Europe at least), to kill an unborn child was seen as a grave moral offence and the child's life was assumed to start at the moment of conception. Before 1967, when a doctor performed a legal abortion to save the mother's life or following a rape, in most cases he and the mother saw that they were making a grave moral decision. Illegal abortions – whether performed by doctors or others – were generally regarded as carried out for personal or social convenience and thought of as morally offensive. It is the change in attitude which 'Life' and the other organised Corrie supporting bodies are fighting. They hope that for a number of reasons we have no space here to discuss, this new Bill would tend to 'set back the clock'. Besides reducing the number of abortions, it would encourage us again to look on the act of abortion as generally wrong.

The extremist opponents of Corrie see this just as clearly as the extremist supporters. Feminist pressure groups backed the 1967 Act precisely because it would change social attitudes. They saw it as a major step towards their goal – that society should accept every woman's right to abortion on demand. This was part of their strong belief that a woman has an absolute right to decide what to do with her own body and that this must include the right freely to choose after starting a pregnancy whether or not she should bear the child.

Thus, it seems to me that the real argument is the one barely mentioned in Parliament. It is not about numbers or the precise age at which an unborn child could live independently of the mother. It is about whether we should move back towards the general moral condemnation of abortion that we once accepted or move on towards open abortion on demand.

Toc H over the water

by Geoffrey and Joan Coxhead

A Gang of Four

On a cool, sunny December day, a small carload of 'Toc H'ers' rolled on to a hovercraft at Ramsgate, to survive the bumpy Channel flight on their way to Poperinge. Their aim: to take part in the 1979 celebration at Talbot House of the World Chain of Light. The little expedition smacked of a last minute venture. Only days before, Revd Colin Rudd, who had planned and prepared for a much larger party, had bowed to defeat through sickness, conceding that a privately arranged group would be well received when it pushed open the heavy iron doors of The Old House.

And how right he was! A wonderful welcome awaited us from our hosts John Forbes and Ruby Relf who, in view of adverse news from home, scarcely expected support from across the Channel. With the informality typical of Toc H we were accepted, not as guests, but as members of the family. The apportioning of duties blended happily with an unlooked-for degree of cossetting. Well, early morning tea — what a delightful start to each of our four days in West Flanders!

The Old House

Outwardly it is the same. And inside, the fine marble floor looks and treads like the wealthy merchant's hall which it was long before Tubby's time. His imprint is firmly pressed on the walls and lintels with their well preserved inscriptions and World War One pictures. Everything possible has been done to keep the 'canteen' atmosphere in an age when 'The Elder Brethren' means little or nothing to the young descendants of Tommy Atkins.

But Talbot House is not, and never was, a museum. We arrived at the right moment to find its life in full swing, starting with central heating! Hitherto the 'season' has been only a few months in the summer, but now it is approaching a year-round stint, impossible without acceptable comfort. Across the way from the dining hall is a white panelled, ultra-modern kitchen in place of the old housekeeper's quarters, with a central table where we fed on all but guest occasions. There, and in the newly converted reception room, we hammered out the details of the two days ahead. With John Forbes' genial guidance, problems were few, and there was ample time for the newcomers to browse through Talbot House as it moved into the 1980s.

Most striking is the transformation of the top floor. The full length library is gone, in its place the empty rooms which will be home for a housekeeper and her family. For visitors, the heated bedrooms are more comfortable than ever before and there is (believe it, old 'Toc H'ers!) indoor sanitation. Gone are the days when, to answer a call of nature, we hurried across the garden in a chilly wind, bound for the Slessorium. That fine building, memorial to a great 'Toc H'er', is unoccupied but there's no question it will serve a new purpose in the Talbot House to be. From John and Ruby we learnt of the changes which are to make The Old House a cheap lodging in an expensive country, and still pay its way in the world.

Round and About

Our passengers, John Rowley and Janet Milton, the one middle aged and bearded and the other a girl of 20, were alike in two respects: they were devoted to Toc H, and they had never yet been to Belgium. And we for our part were glad to meet once again old friends like the Menin Gate, impressive as ever with its sad record of human slaughter, despite the even greater butcheries of more recent times. We drove up to stretch our legs at Spanbroekmolen, which is the name you ask for to see the Pool of Peace. There, tons upon tons of high explosive were stored for a year of tunnelling in one of the many attempts, costly in human life, by the Allies to bring World War One to its conclusion. Tubby's sharp eye spotted the crater filling up with water, and won it for Toc H. But the bottom is leaking; unless something is done soon, the newts and frogs will have to find a new home elsewhere.



A party from Britain visit the Pool of Peace after the World Chain of Light celebrations at Talbot House, Poperinge.

With a few days at 'Pop' a trip to Bruges (but call it Brugge to be popular) is a must. The weather that day was chilly and wet with a niggling wind. We caught colds. The famous belfry was closed for repairs, and 'Did you not know? Tuesday is a holiday in Brugge. You'll find the museums closed.' We did, but made our way to the lace makers, busy as ever, and gazed at that miracle, the Michelangelo Virgin in the Vroukirk. Then back in time to welcome our first visitors.



The Gasthuisstraat (formerly Rue de l'Hopital) as seen from the Upper Room, Talbot House on 12 December 1979.

The Vigil

The Upper Room is the part of Talbot House where change has been least. All has been preserved, including the Carpenter's Bench, hidden behind draperies. You feel that Laurence Binyon might mount that steep stairway at any moment, to write his epic poem 'The flame upon the altar lives . . .'. Here we observe a 12 hour vigil (not 24, for lack of numbers) on the famous 12th, Tubby's birthday and also, it is believed, the date he first entered the House to take possession 65 years ago.

Our small party was seldom alone. There was a constant stream of local visitors, many of whom took communion that morning, at a service conducted by Padre Tim Dugdale, who had come over from Gent for the celebration. A wealth of Toc H literature was there for those who ran out of thought, but most visitors came simply to pray. After the closing service we adjourned, filing down those precipitous stairs, still adorned by Tubby's warning against emulation of the hapless Amy Robsart. And for the second evening in succession, a gathering of 30 plus Belgian friends sat down to chat over light refreshments. Some had been with us all day, or nearly, and they were not sent away empty.

Britain in Flanders

It would be equally wrong to dismiss them without a word of introduction. Kilda Swaelens, who teaches English in a Poperinge school, attended both parties. Vivacious, full of fun, she made two of us promise a picture show if ever we went to China! Danny Claeys and Derik Botteraer, both about 21, are members of 'Tubby's Pop Group', a brainwave of John Forbes which has taken off, as indeed it might in a society which unites denominations. And Irme, driven home, proudly displayed her centre-of-the-room stove — there are only two like it in Belgium.

On all sides we met tremendous goodwill, not only in 'Pop' but at times from much farther afield. The House that has survived two world wars continues to stand for peace and brotherhood, and the evidence is that it still has a role to play.

Photo: Geoffrey Coxhead

Photo: Geoffrey Coxhead

You don't know what you're missing

by Yvonne Atkinson

Yvonne is a trained physiotherapist working in Manchester. She first met Toc H some four years ago on one of the West Midlands and S Wales Region's projects. Fired with enthusiasm, she became a founder member and leader of the first Toc H group in her home town of Warrington and was closely followed by her younger sister, Colette. Both girls are now studying away from home but have kept all their Toc H enthusiasm and continue to show a lively interest in all the activities of what has now become the Warrington District, with two branches and five groups.



Everyone reading this magazine must surely be aware of the extensive opportunities available to them through the Toc H projects, but I wonder how many have actually been on a project and experienced all that it involves.

There is the initial welcome from the leaders and getting to know the other volunteers — but no time for worrying about making conversation, you find that isn't necessary. There is one common factor in every project, the time spent caring about something other than yourself, and it overrides everything during the days, or perhaps weeks, away from home. There will be much asked of you, and you will be expected to cope with all kinds of emergencies — from a broken wheel chair carrying a 15 stone man, to a tear stained face brandishing a tiny splinter in the thumb thrust under your nose.

Festival Year Diary

Have you applied for your tickets? If not, there is still time.

Full details, together with the Application Form, are in your January *Point Three*.

All applications and enquiries, please, to the Festival Secretary:

R Stayman, 244 Chatsworth Grove,
Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 2EB
Telephone: 0423 (Harrogate) 61984

Caravan and Camping Rally

In our January issue we announced the planned National Caravan and Camping Rally sponsored for Festival Year by Peterborough and Stamford District. A detailed programme for this event is now available from the address at the foot of this notice.

This is the first event of its kind and it is planned as a major contribution to our Festival Year. The organisers hope it will become an annual rally.

Place: Sacrewell Farm, Thornhaugh, Peterborough (beside the main A1).

Dates: 27-29 June 1980

Cost: £3 per unit (caravan/tent) for the weekend.

All enquiries and bookings as soon as possible to Revd C M White, 68 Thorpe Park Road, Peterborough, Cambs PE3 6LJ.

Tel: 0733 (Peterborough) 63686.

You will be set upon by vicious five year olds in their quest to hold your hand before anyone else does, and smothered by tired little bodies at the end of the day. Your wellies may split and you'll spend a whole day as good as barefoot in the mud, and find brambles and worms in your socks later as you collapse in front of your pint.

You will be cursed when you drop the sterile scissors on the floor at the sight of any uncovered sick body, and maybe cry when the patient tells you afterwards that she's not yet 28 — and that they'll find a cure tomorrow or maybe the day after.

Service from the SE by Pat Turner

As announced at Council last November, we in the SE Region are busy preparing to act as hosts for members and friends from the other Regions who will be attending the 1980 Festival.

When members receive their plan of the area and list of restaurants and coffee bars, they are asked to remember that we shall be offering a service of tea, coffee, sandwiches, etc, all at reasonable prices, with any surplus money going to the Family Purse.

We shall be open from 10.30 until 5 pm on Saturday 31 May so why not come along and take the opportunity of meeting and mixing with members from far and wide? This service will be provided in the Mary Sumner House (shown on your plan).

In addition to the above we shall be operating, also on the Saturday, 'Mini-Bus Tours' of London with a fleet of five minibuses. Not only will we show you such places as Buckingham Palace, but we'll also be visiting one of the Toc H Houses in London. The pick-up point will be near the Mary Sumner House and a small donation towards defraying the costs will be collected on the bus. Do come along and support us.

Our own Regional Celebrations will take the form of a gathering at Cuddesdon House our new conference centre on 13 September, where we shall be able to renew friendships old and new, be entertained by various groups, listen to Frank Rice, our speaker, and round the day off with an Epilogue. At this gathering it is hoped that we will be able to give thanks for money raised on a stall on Tower Hill immediately prior to the celebration day. To stock this stall we shall be asking all members and friends in the Region to contribute at least one gift.

But you'll find a feeling so rare that you'll go back time after time to recapture it. A sense of companionship with the other volunteers who are all learning as you do, one of pride in yourself because you can do it, and you are bothering to: and one of wonder at the world around you and what people really are if you try to care.

Have you been on a Toc H Project yet?

Note: This article first appeared in 'Wag Mag' — a lively journal produced for a while by the Branches and Groups in the Warrington (Cheshire) District.

International Year of the Child

Bargoed (Glamorgan) Women's Branch concentrated their 1979 efforts on 'The International Year of the Child' theme. Throughout the year they mounted a series of special fund raising events involving all members. As a result, they were able to present a cheque for £200 to Dr Barnardo's Homes at a special service held at the Calforia Chapel. The

service was followed by a most moving film show taken at a special Home for handicapped children: the funds to build this Home had been raised entirely by people who had themselves been brought up by Dr Barnardo's. The picture shows Branch members, with Chairman Margeret Dorsett presenting the cheque to Revd Shem Morgan.



In Brief...

● Stamford (Lincs) Joint Branch marked the start of our Festival Year with a successful 'Thank You' Guest Night. Invited were friends and representatives of all the local groups who had helped or are helping Toc H. The Branch Secretary writes to tell us that the list included 'representatives of: Rotary, Round Table, Lions, Kiwanis International, Inner Wheel, Social Services, Age Concern, St John's Ambulance, the Salvation Army, Ranger Scouts, Girl Guides, Stamford High School, the incumbents of three local churches and the Warden of Browne's Hospital. Our speaker was the Revd Crispin White, who spoke enthusiastically and persuasively about our aims and activities to a large and appreciative audience. Sherry, refreshments and wine were served, and the evening ended with informal questions from guests to members. The interest shown in Toc H by guests (age range 17-78) was unquestionably flattering, several openly expressing their admiration for our lack of self interest and making encouraging comments on Toc H service to the community. Representatives of several of the organisations readily agreed to take part in future events as guest speakers.'

● One evening recently, Cambridge Joint Branch invaded the flat of Vaughan ('Vee') Russell. 'Vee's' wife Mary was in the know: 'Vee' was in the dark. Parcels of food and drink were unpacked and they all shared the good things. The Branch Chairman proposed the toast to 'Vee' who that day had reached his 80th birthday. This highly successful surprise party was a sincere tribute to a loved and respected Branch member.

● In 1972 a semi-retired member of Green Street Green (Kent) Men's Branch was asked by the welfare department to take John for walks. John, a retired civil servant, was fast losing his sight and lived in a shack on an unmade road in primitive conditions . . . Soon the whole Branch joined in and every year would go in a gang to cut down the overgrown garden . . . This continued until the end of 1978 when John had a serious stroke and had to be taken to the local hospital where the Branch visited him regularly. He was far from happy and last April was moved to a private nursing home. The end came last November and it was found that John had accumulated a large sum during his 'hermit's' life. After legacies to relatives and to people who had helped him, the residue is to go to the National Institute for the Blind to be used for research.

The whole Branch will miss John but have the happy thought that the Institute will receive many thousands of pounds that he saved to benefit others.

Welcome

The following Branches elected new members during January and February:

- 4 - Tubby's Poperinge (j) Group
- 3 - Felixstowe (w), Huddersfield Youth Action (j) Group
- 2 - Bognor Regis (j), Budleigh Salterton Action Plus (j), Dundee (j) Group, Hackney (j), Honiton (w), Llandrindod Wells (j), Milford-on-Sea (j), Troon (w), Woolston (Warrington) Youth Action (j) Group
- 1 - Ashby-de-la-Zouch (m), Bala (m), Burraton (w), Central Overseas, Chandlers Ford (m), Chippenham (m), Chirk (w), Colwyn Bay (m), Earley (m), Finchley & Whetstone (w), Guisborough (j), Kennington - Kent (m), Llanarmon-yn-Ial (m), New Addington (j), Porlock (m), Redcar (j) Group, Rushden (m), Sandown/Shanklin (j), Shirehampton (m), Winchester Flintstones (j) Group, Wroughton (w)

A warm welcome to 49 new members

● Two items of news from Wessex District. In January, they held their annual dinner and dance - attended by 75 members and guests - at The Embassy Hotel, Bournemouth. As part of this Festival Year, the District plan a Festival Service followed by a slide and picture show of local activities. The Service will be held at 2.30 pm on 9 August at Rosebery Park Baptist Church; the tea and entertainment will follow in the Iford Centre.

● We have just received a report of the eighth birthday party of Bournemouth and Christchurch Joint Branch. The gathering was held in the Toc H Centre, Iford and the main speaker was Toc H Trustee Betty Cornick JP. The Branch keeps very busy with jobs that range from running a jigsaw puzzle library and a taped news service for the blind to helping with outings for the elderly, holidays for the handicapped and fund raising for a host of causes, including the provision of gifts to the Vietnamese 'boat people' at Sopley.

● St Peter's Port (Guernsey) Women's Branch write to tell us of a generous legacy they have received from Leah Tardif who was their Pilot for 38 years. In addition, Leah left more than £1,000 as a bequest to All Hallows where her ashes now rest.

From the Director

by Ken Prideaux-Brune



Our project programme is one of the largest run by any of the 'work camp' organisations. It has a significant impact on the lives of a great many of the several hundred people who participate every summer. And for many years now it has played an important part in introducing Toc H to each new generation. However, even good things can be improved. However 'successful' an activity may be we need at intervals to take stock, to pause and consider whether it can be developed. The Central Executive has appointed a small group with precisely this responsibility in relation to our project programme.

The first and most important of the terms of reference of this new group is deliberately drawn up widely. It is 'to consider ways in which the project programme can be developed'. The kind of questions which the group will want to look at will, I imagine, include: Ought we to be trying new kinds of project? How can we widen the mixture, both of background and of age, of those who take part in projects? How can projects be further integrated into the whole family of Toc H? What new challenges ought we to be offering to those who, after several years of project leadership, are looking for a different way of continuing their Toc H commitment?

These are only a few of the questions the group will be considering. Their thinking will have a major part to play in shaping the Toc H of the future. But if the group is to be as effective as it should be it will need the thoughts and ideas of a wide range of people. If you have a contribution to make to this forward thinking please write to me. I will be glad to share your ideas with the group. Please play your part in helping to carry out the responsible job which they have been given.

* * * * *



Walton (Somerset) Men's and Women's Branches were planning to raise funds for their local hospital when one member came up with a novel idea. He persuaded a friend to make an eye catching, near life

size Basil Brush as 'collector in chief'. The Branches were soon able to hand over a cheque for £100 for amenities in the hospital's occupational therapy unit.



Photo: Skegness Standard

Members of Skegness (Lincs) Women's Branch who recently gave their annual

party to the girls of the Seacroft Residential School.

The 'chips debate' seems to be arousing increasing interest within the Movement. I was glad to have the chance of participating in a very well attended weekend on this subject at Cuddesdon House early in February. But such a weekend inevitably attracts those who are already conscious of the importance of the issues raised. The challenge thrown out to us by Ray Curnow (he and his wife Susan were the 'experts' who guided our thinking on this occasion) was: how can we start the debate among the unconverted? And can Toc H play a part in taking the discussion to a wider audience?

Toc H has no solutions to offer, no overall blueprint to put forward. We are, however, aware of many of the crucial questions. And, as Geoffrey

Cleaver reminded us during the weekend, we have some moral guidance which we can offer. He spoke, for instance, of the danger of reducing life to concepts that can be quantified or turned into computer language. The really important things in life — love, joy, beauty — cannot be so reduced. And he reminded us that people can never be regarded as expendable, even on the altar of economic and financial rectitude.

* * * * *

And Cuddesdon House itself? Our group unanimously voted it a 'good thing'. We immediately felt welcomed and at home there. I have no doubt that it is a tool which will have an important part to play in the building of the Kingdom. We were lucky — though I doubt if that is the right word — to find it.

Congratulations Manchester

Wilf Lord, of Alderley Edge, Cheshire must be one of the best known members in the Manchester area. In particular, he has been closely associated since 1929 with the Toc H Manchester Rugby Football Club. Last year, having completed his 'half century', he finally resigned from active work with the Club. Wilf was delighted to receive the following letter from Mr Hector Monro, Minister of Sport:

'Fred Silvester the MP for the area where your Toc H Manchester Rugby Football Club has its home, has mentioned to me the great work you have done for the Club. I believe you have recently decided to retire as Secretary after 40 years of service, and that you have over the years been Captain, Treasurer, and President.*

I know, too, that your work with the Club has kept it going during the difficult years of war. I am particularly impressed by your record of help to boys engaged in the sport in South Manchester.

It is a great pleasure when one learns of people, like yourself whose voluntary labours make sport available to so many young people. I offer you my congratulations and thanks for a life time of effort and success in sport in the Manchester area.'

*Actually 50! — Editor

Cowes



Congratulations to Ruth Burland, a 17 year old sixth form student at Cowes (IOW) High School who has won the 1980 May O'Connor Trust Award. In her case, the award takes the form of £100 to help her take part in the Toc H Berlin playscheme. Her successful application quoted her 1979 experience on a Toc H playscheme in Luton and her keenness to extend this experience in Germany. Ruth is a granddaughter of a former Cowes member.

BE STILL then....

Should you require Bible Reading Fellowship Notes and find difficulty in obtaining them at your local church, we can send them from here for £1 per annum. The Publications Department at Wendover still have copies of 'Yours is the Glory', or you can get these from members of the Regional staff. The Chaplain will let you have a fuller list of daily intercessions, with names, if you just ask him.

BORDON LETTER

by Gilbert Francis

I am given to understand that television advertisements are supposed to be inserted in programmes at what are termed 'natural breaks', ie when the theme or story line of the programme permits a break to be taken without destroying the continuity. I often wonder how successfully this is really achieved, but at least in some cases it seems to work out fairly accurately and the story preserves its continuity. Such is generally true of life, when some natural break such as a change of job enables a change of direction to be made without deviating from the general purpose of one's life.

I believe the same to be true in the life of a Movement such as ours, although the 'natural breaks' are often less clearly defined and it is only when reviewing the life of the Movement over a period of years that one is able to discover that such changes have in fact taken place at all. For there is on the part of all of us an inbuilt resistance to change: conscious change is one of the things we find most difficult to accept — particularly if it involves some modicum of alteration to precepts and methods that we have come to hold dear. This is particularly true of a Movement like Toc H which has built up its traditions over a long period of years and which is largely unaware of the changes to itself which those years have wrought.

Changes have taken place in the life of Toc H and generally the Family is the better for them, although this has often been very difficult to accept at the time of change. It requires courage, often a great deal of courage, to face the problems that change brings and to have the resolution to work things through in a way which will strengthen our fellowship rather than destroy it. There are always those who will wish to preserve the past and who cannot accept that the most important thing we have to preserve is the future in order that those ideals which have been our bedrock may be available for the inspiration of those generations of the Family yet to come. For, although the principles of our Movement remain as true and as sound as ever they were, they only give us the base from which we transmit a spirit: the methods by which we transmit that spirit, and indeed the ways in which that spirit works, remain as susceptible to change as they have always been.

We need to be constantly aware of the changes which take place in society and so of the changing demands that society makes on us. We need to evaluate these changes honestly and to look for the opportunities they offer to us. For God does not remain static and we are still about His purposes; there is to my mind little evidence in the Gospel that His purpose is the preservation of the status quo. We need to pray long and earnestly that He will continue to reveal His purpose to us, and we need to pray equally hard that He will give us the courage and the honesty to make the changes in our lives that will enable us to meet His needs. Perhaps it is time to say our prayers now.

Festival Visitors

We have heard from Toc H India of two members who will be attending our National Festival. They are Hon Commissioner D Soundara Pandiyan, from Madras and Hon Secretary Mike Shivkar, from Bombay. They plan to meet other overseas guests at the International Weekend (Cuddesdon House — 24-26 May), to spend a week in London, based at Mark 3 and, following the Festival, to spend two

weeks meeting members in the North Wales and North West Region.

Other overseas visitors include Revd Eddie Bentley-Edwards (Southern Africa's National Padre) and Edric Russell (Chairman, Border Area). As with our Indian guests, arrangements are being made for time to see Toc H activities in various parts of the country.

Anniversary Walk

by Scott Shaw

Eight Toc H Branches have been asked to become key participants in a special event which could involve us all. It happens in May, so there's just time for your Branch to make plans to join in! This special event has its origins in a venture which began, 50 years ago, as a dream by two people, one of them a Toc H member. The Movement was then just over 15 years old.

Borstal Walk

The Toc H member was Alec Paterson (Sir Alexander Paterson MC), a senior Home Office official. The other was Bill Llewellyn, deputy governor of a Borstal. Like other Borstals in those days, it was a grim building, built in the times when punishment, not rehabilitation, was the first consideration.

Both dreamed of a new kind of Borstal, where lads who had offended against society would have their spirits raised and, hopefully, their outlook changed, by living and working in more open, attractive surroundings.

The new Borstal was to be at Lowdham Grange, near Nottingham — and the lads were to help to build it themselves!

But first, a party of selected boys and officers from Feltham Borstal — one of the 'old' establishments — walked the 130 odd miles to Lowdham in a sort of 'pilgrims' progress' to better things.



Bill Llewellyn leads his lads on the original march (May 1930)

This is where Toc H came in. Branches along the route provided the accommodation for the 'pilgrims' — in fact, it is difficult to see how it could easily have been done without them.

At times, the sleeping arrangements were rather basic. At St Albans, the Governor's journal reports: 'To bed on floor, on tables, under tables, in the rafters, in the Ford lorry which accompanied us and in an outhouse; close quarters but a good night's rest'. After similar arrangements at Dunstable, accommodation at Northampton was four star by comparison: 'Sleep on palliasses in luxury'.

At last, after 132 miles and ten days, the group arrived at its destination: 'Rain and drizzle ceased at Gunthorpe and the sun smiled upon our entry into Lowdham village, where many of the villagers turned out to welcome us . . .

. . . So ended a wonderful ten days; it has been a happy and inspiring experience for all; all have shared a common life, entirely out of the common for Borstal officers and lads; this experience will bind us all together and prepare us, in a way no ordinary start could do, for the petty round of irritating concerns and duties and the jarring contacts of one with another, inevitable in a small and close penned community.

'The staff pulled together on the march in the most admirable way; a better spirit could not have been wished for. The lads, in conduct, in good manners, in willingness and unselfishness at all times were ideal; unpleasant incidents, even of a petty nature, usual in camp, were almost entirely absent.

'Personally the march has been one of the happiest experiences of my life; during the course of it, I felt no misgivings nor anxiety concerning the absolute loyalty of staff and lads; looking back upon it will be a memory of unmixed happiness.

'For the vision of the march start for Lowdham Grange, which He inspired, I thank God.'

The walk had ended but a good thing had begun. In the fields outside Lowdham, the dream was to become a reality.



Lad with transport 1950



The first tent pitched (1930) on what is now the lawn of the Governor's house.



Building the 'Admin Block' (1931-2)

Lowdham now

Lowdham Grange aims to blow some fresh air into the lives of its boys, broadening their interests, perhaps teaching them a trade and helping them prepare for the world to which they will be returning.

A range of work keeps them busy; Lowdham has two farms, two dairy herds and a woodworking workshop; its 'exports' include milk, potatoes and furniture, some supplied under Government contracts.

There is a compulsory remedial education programme to improve standards, plus a choice of evening study subjects like maths, English, music appreciation or pottery. During their free time at weekends, the boys are encouraged to help local pensioners, for example, with gardening or decorating.

Lowdham has its own gymnastics team which performs at fetes and carnivals; boys can also enrol for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.



Lad with transport 1980

Why Walk?

This is a celebration. Not to commemorate the building of just another Borstal, but of an act of faith by two men who believed that if you put people in an open environment you could change them for the better.

It is our celebration too, because 1980 is the 50th anniversary of Toc H's first clear involvement with the Borstal and prison service. We are still involved with Borstals: one of them produced some of the furniture for our Port Penrhyn adventure centre; Borstal boys have been on Toc H projects and worked alongside other volunteers; Branches in some localities do prison visiting; and inmates in Aylesbury prison produce braille copies of *Point Three* for our blind subscribers.

All this ties in with our Royal Charter's injunction to promote the rehabilitation of offenders. In plainer language it's our belief that offenders, like any Toc H members, are valued as human beings because everyone has something to give, to a personal relationship or to the community at large.

Where we come in

Toc H member Jimmy Savile OBE would like us to do our bit for the Stoke Mandeville Hospital Spinal Unit Building

Appeal, and the walk is an excellent way of starting things off. How? Because the lads are willing to be sponsored!

At Stoke Mandeville the District General Hospital just a few miles from Wendover, is the National Spinal Injury Centre which has a world wide reputation for dedication, excellence and innovation by its medical and nursing staff.

Toc H has already demonstrated its special interest in Stoke Mandeville by joining with Jimmy in providing an attractive lounge for the spinal injuries patients, their relatives and visitors. (see *Point Three*, July 1976).

The Spinal Injuries Unit still occupies the original hutted accommodation built in 1941 and although improved over the years, the buildings are obsolete and the whole set-up needs complete replacement. Jimmy hopes to raise £10 million for rebuilding wards and providing new medical research facilities.

If you would like to see Toc H play its part with other organisations in supporting this appeal, a good way to start would be to sponsor the Lowdham Grange lads on their walk of about 140 miles. Please stick the form at the top of a sheet of paper, and start passing it round your Branch and among friends and neighbours: let's help Jim to fix it!

Four of the walkers meet Jimmy Savile OBE.



Photo: Scott Shaw

(Cut out and fix this form at the top of a sheet of paper, continuing the columns down. Use extra sheets if necessary)

LOWDHAM GRANGE - TOC H SPONSORED WALK - Feltham, Middlesex - Lowdham Grange (Nottingham)

This Branch has arranged for the people named below to sponsor the boys as a group on their walk (distance about 140 miles), at a rate per mile indicated by each sponsor. This Branch will collect the total amounts due when the distance walked is known and will send them to:

The Finance Secretary, Toc H HQ, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT. Cheques should be made payable to Toc H. Please mark your contribution 'Lowdham Grange Walk'.

Branch Signed (Secretary)

Like to join it?

Here is a diagram of the Toc H Branches which we hope will be providing night stopover accommodation. If you'd like to offer them assistance, or perhaps join the lads for a few miles on their walk, ring Scott Shaw for details.

Night Stops



SPONSOR

Rate per mile

Total amount payable

We will Remember...

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In August

Sam 'Blinks' Brentnall (St Annes)

In December

Arthur J Bowden (Thurrock)
Irene Hollands Days (Wessex District)
Herbert Evans (Lincs & South
Humberside District)
Alf E Harwood (Porlock)
Margery M Small (Netherhall)

In January

George Atkinson (Harrow)
George J Bailey (Deal & Walmer)
Sylvia Blackman (formerly Waveney)
Charles L Cornelius (Exmouth)
G M 'Trudi' Dawson (Strode Park &
Herne)
Constance N Evans (Lincs & South
Humberside District)
Basil J Greenhill (Nailsea)
Charles W E Hicks (Goring-by-Sea)
Joyce H King (Newton Abbot)
John A Marks (Hayes)
Arthur Nelson (Huddersfield)
Doris I Thorn (Cardiff)

In February

George H Bell (Bolton)
Albert E Cottingham (Uckfield)
Donald L Stokes (Springfields District)
Walter Ken Western (Tolworth)

On 23 January, George Atkinson died at the age of 74. A much loved man and a dedicated Toc H member for almost 50 years, he served on both Central Council

and the Central Executive. He joined Melton Mowbray Branch in 1932 and opened up two neighbouring Branches. In 1961, he passed over his business to the care of a manager and, with his wife, Dorothy, spent three years building up Dor Knap (they were joint wardens) and working with Broadway Branch. He then went to S Wales, spending three years there as an energetic, loved and successful Area Secretary. When he returned to Melton in 1967 to pick up his business threads, he became E Midlands Area Pilot. In his 'spare' time, George served on the Melton Town Council and was heavily engaged in a wide range of voluntary activities. It was at a Toc H meeting that he proposed a swimming pool for Melton. He formed a committee which worked at the project for eight years, raised £100,000 and saw the pool built, George himself being given the honour of unveiling the commemorative plaque. After Dorothy's death three years ago, George went to live with his daughter in Harrow and built a strong fellowship with Harrow Branch members which he valued greatly.

WH

Note: A service of Thanksgiving for George's life and work was held in March in Melton's Central Methodist Church. His family has asked that donations in George's memory be sent to Toc H Headquarters: they will be used to provide an item for use in Cuddesdon House

— Editor

'Tommy' Edwards MBE, President of Buckley Branch died in January in tragic circumstances. He was 83 ...

On 24 January, returning to his car after performing an errand of mercy, Tommy was struck by another vehicle; he was taken immediately to hospital but did not recover consciousness.

'Tommy' proved to be stalwart in Toc H spheres in Mold and Buckley Districts; he failed not in his charge to the Branch to be faithful to the challenge of performing 'good works'. I can picture him now — comfortable of frame, ruddy and healthy of complexion, grey haired with twinkling eyes, rallying the members to respond to the call to service to those less fortunate than himself. In his working life 'Tommy' earned a reputation for fairmindedness as a Manager of the Labour Exchange at Flint and this ultimately found him being honoured with the MBE. We extend our sincere sympathy to his widow, daughter and son in the loss of so admirable a husband and so thoughtful a father.

HLH

Joyce King, Treasurer and founder member of Newton Abbot (Devon) Women's Branch and a devoted Toc H worker for almost 40 years, died on 25 January.

Herbert Donaldson, a former member of the old Hull Branch, died in January.

Trudy Dawson, a member of Strode Park and Herne (Kent) Joint Branch died in January at the age of 86. A week earlier, with the energy of a woman half her age,

FLAG DAYS

Re-printed from 'Lamplight' — the monthly newsletter of Seaford (E Sussex) Branch.

For anyone interested in the study of human nature, taking part as a collector on a Flag Day is a revealing pastime.

You are given your 'pitch' and you arrive at the scheduled time, on a cold and windy day, armed with your collecting box, ticket of authority, and a roll of sticky 'flags'. (Gone are the days when you could amuse yourself by puncturing the local populace with flags on a pin.)

Immediately you arrive, a sudden change comes over all the people who are out shopping. Some approach to within a few yards, then suddenly discover something in a shop opposite, turn sharply at right angles, and cross the road to the no small inconvenience of others. Some veer into the gutter, as if afraid of contamination. One even steps smartly into the road, and narrowly escapes being run over, a high price, one would have thought, to avoid making a contribution. A couple, approaching in complete silence, suddenly commence an animated conversation, which naturally renders them oblivious to all outside interference. Some people stop dead, a few yards away, and mutter — 'Oh, I forgot to go into W. ths' and forthwith retreat rapidly into the store in question. A few stare haughtily straight through you, and you are seized

with a sudden panic, in case you have become invisible. Some, spotting you just in time, call out 'Just coming, dear' to no-one in particular, and dash off at high speed. Others, with shopping trolleys, accelerate as they pass you, as if the trolley had got out of control and was pulling them.

There is a marked difference in the behaviour of those who have already bought a flag from someone else. They wear a slightly smug expression, and finger their flags to draw your attention to the fact that they have made a contribution elsewhere.

However, what makes it all worth while, are those who approach you and smile and say, as they place a coin in your box — 'Yours is a very good cause, good luck!' and the weather brightens, the wind drops, and the world is suddenly a very nice place again.

Trudy was helping with the Branch's annual New Year party at Strode Park Home for the Disabled. (Most of this Branch's members are residents of the Home.) Trudy had been a greatly loved and respected member of Toc H for many years.

Margery Small, a founder member of Netherhall (Leics) Women's Branch, died on 26 December last. Always cheerful, happy and helpful, she was responsible over the years for introducing many new members to the Family of Toc H.

We have just heard that Fred Kemp, a long standing member of the former S Ruislip Branch, has died in Canada. Fred was a striking figure who will be remembered by many in the SE Region.

A devoted husband and wife, Bert and Connie Evans, both members of Lincs and S Humberside District Branch, died recently within a few weeks of each other. Both were long standing Toc H members and deeply committed Methodists. For many years, Bert was a Sunday School teacher and very active in youth club work and many of the children he served kept in touch with him for the rest of his life. Bert saved a comrade's life in World War One (they became life long friends) and later was a POW in Germany. Bert was 85 when he died, and Connie 79.

We give thanks for their lives



Photo: Alan Daniels

There were 29 successful applicants for project grants from the Trafford (Manchester) Borough Council's Lottery Fund. The total sum available was some £15,000. Toc H (Manchester) received no less than £1,000 for 'financial assistance towards their activities' in the Manchester area. This was the third largest sum allocated and the Toc H project planned is a holiday for mentally handicapped young people. In the picture, Janet Milton (employed under the STEP programme to work with Toc H) and Kim Stent, treasurer of the Manchester Projects Group, show the cheque.



Photo: Gravesend & Dartford Reporter.

For the third year running, Gravesend Branches have run a New Year 'mini handi' for some 40 handicapped people. This year (see picture) guests were able to hear a personal taped message from Jimmy Savile. As many local young people as possible were brought in to help look after the guests. The Mayor and Mayoress of Gravesend (Councillor and Mrs Dyke) were present for most of the evening. The Branches warmly thank all members and friends who helped. Special thanks are due to the local Red Cross and taxi services (who helped with transport) and to local firms and shops who gave generous help in cash and kind.



Photo: Photomasters, Weymouth

Southill (Weymouth) Women's Branch recently celebrated their 21st birthday. The cake was cut by founder members Jeanne Pennel (L) and Jess Pritchard.

Open Forum

'Mobilisation for Survival'

Many thanks for publishing the article 'Mobilisation for Survival' by the Very Revd Baron MacLeod in the February *Point Three*.

This article should be re-published in every daily, weekly, Sunday Newspaper in the country, also in every denominational religious newspaper, and every local Church newsletter, and I would request through this letter, the permission of both yourselves as publishers, and the author himself, to reproduce it in its entirety in my own Church newsletter.

R G Clegg
Evesham, Worcs

I am writing this after reading the article by Rev George MacLeod in February's *Point Three*. The threat of nuclear war grows ever greater, and the individual seems powerless to do much about it. However, there are people and movements trying to do something. May I mention the Campaign for World Disarmament, and its National Convention on 12 April, 12 am - 5 pm, at the Central Hall, Victoria Street, Westminster?

This Movement is sponsored by many eminent people, and deserves the support of all. Details can be obtained from: Eric Messer, Secretary, 21 Rydens Lane, Old Coulsdon, Surrey CR3 1SU. Please help!

A J Mines
Corsham, Wilts

Lord George MacLeod's article, *Mobilisation for Survival*, in your February issue fills me with dismay, for it seems to me to indicate that he has not learned the lesson which the outbreak of World War Two should have taught all of us who were then old enough to understand what was happening.

I was 13 in 1926, so I was growing up when there was a spate of books and films about World War One. I was firmly convinced that that really was 'the war to end all wars'. I sympathised, though having then recently spent a month with a French family, I could not agree with the young men of the Oxford Union who, in 1933 passed a motion that 'this house will not fight for King and country'. At some stage prior to 1939, I joined the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship. My husband was a member of Dick Sheppard's 'Peace Pledge Union'.

In 1939, after the outbreak of World War Two, the dispatches of our then ambassador in Berlin, Sir Neville

Henderson, were published. Lord MacLeod perhaps did not read them. We did, and were horrified. It was clear from those dispatches that the pacifists in this country, more than any other section of the community, had got us involved in the war. How? The German ambassador to this country, von Ribbentrop, had been misled by the publicity given to the activities of the Peace Pledge Union and the Oxford Union into believing that under no circumstances would this country go to war.

We took no action when Hitler marched into the Rhineland, then into Austria, and after that, into Czechoslovakia. But we, together with France, did warn the Fuehrer that if he marched into Poland, we should declare war. But, thanks to Ribbentrop's advice he did not believe us. So he marched into Poland, and we declared war.

I cannot myself see that there is anything to choose between Marxism and Communism. If 'mobilisation for survival' is really operating in Russia, then I would be in favour of the rest of us supporting it. But unilateral disarmament, nuclear or conventional, is, I am sure, the quickest and surest way to get us involved in World War Three.

If this were a Christian nation, we could lay aside our arms and trust in God to protect us. But a look at any daily paper will demonstrate that this is far from being a Christian nation. So it seems to me that a Christian's duty is to spread the Gospel (with or without preaching it), and to pray for peace — 'more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of'.

Mobilisation for Survival — or for Extinction?

Yvette J Frymann
Nottingham

Full Marx

In February's *Point Three*, I read with regret that politics seem to be creeping into the Open Forum. The letter in question is the one entitled 'Full Marx'. Whilst not taking sides either with Marxism or Capitalism, cannot we keep political issues out of Toc H as the media give such topics an adequate airing already? Toc H reaches out to many people of different nationalities, religions and ideals. Cannot Open Forum be limited to the vast range of topics involved in the Movement?

F H Marsh
Croydon, Surrey

In February's *Point Three* I was surprised to see the ugly head of Communism raising itself. The ditty (*How to Achieve Full Marx* — December issue) was true red doctrine and practice. Why is there a Berlin wall? As to the February article, 'Mobilisation of Survival', does the writer really believe that pacifism will work? Much chance neutral countries had in 1939-45! Freedom is the greatest thing in life, decried under dictatorship of any sort. Isn't this worth fighting for? Wake up.

W H Crane
Luton

In your February issue Fred Bailey of Bideford asserts that 'capitalism and its evil spawnings have caused more harm in the world than any other system devised by man'. He also refers us to the 'brave new world outside' — presumably that of the Trades Unions and the USSR to which he makes reference.

Could we please ask Fred to write again and enlarge a little on these views — to tell us just what he means? Because if he means what I think he does, then Fred down in Bideford will get a broadside from me — and doubtless others — that they'll be hearing in Penzance.

Bob Harvey
Mold, Chwyd

Cuddesdon House

I have read in February's *Point Three* concerning Cuddesdon House with considerable interest, but I am dismayed that, as far as I know, no attempt whatever has been made to publish for the benefit of the membership any details of the full cost of acquiring the House, either as a report from the Council or in *Point Three*. This information should be available to all Toc H members, if only to stop any wild guesses or rumours.

At the same time I would like to say I have never heard or seen the full cost of Port Penrhyn — another item that should be better known.

Ted Curry
Northampton

Note:

1. All these figures are included in the Annual Accounts which are available to any member on request. Port Penrhyn expenditure has appeared there since we acquired the place in 1975 and the Cuddesdon House cost will appear in this year's Accounts.

2. The Movement bought the

Opinions expressed in these columns (including any editorial comment) are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement. We reserve the right to edit letters. Only letters carrying the correspondent's full name and address will be considered for publication.

Bishop's House (now Cuddesdon House) with the land and certain fixtures and fittings (eg carpets and curtains) plus an adjoining detached three bedroom bungalow for a total of £160,000.
—Editor

Ceremony of Light

I was interested to read in February's issue ('Wider Family' page) that Palayankottai Branch 'respond' with 'Let us bring Light'. Since we adopted the new formula many years ago, we have been following the same procedure. It seemed logical to us to do this as it follows naturally in the original ceremony words, where 'We will remember them' was repeated by all members before the period of silence. I agree with our friends in India that without the repetition members take a lesser part in the ceremony. On the question generally of *Point Three* we think that it is kept at a very high standard at a cost that in these days is extremely good value. Please increase our Branch order from 18 to 20.

George MacLeod's article (February issue) has made an enormous impact — food for thought indeed!

Charles Beale
Seaford, E Sussex

Point Three

You ask for comments on *Point Three*. Personally I think that it is very good value. All the news from here and abroad gives us our money's worth however much it's going to cost. Being a Toc H member for 20 years I wouldn't miss it for all the tea in China.

Barbara Wrighton
Rushden, Northants

Thank You!

I was sorry to hear about the closure of the Loddon Toc H Branch, and would like to pay tribute to some of the stalwart 'old soldiers' who have at last 'faded away'. For well over 20 years this Branch devoted itself to the welfare of others: Christmas parcels for many old people, firewood chopped by the ton, sick visited

in all weathers, entertainment and old peoples parties, gardening and providing transport without funds of any kind, except what they provided themselves. Under the guidance of people like Wilfred Brooke, Gordon Plumb, Fred Nobbs, Arthur Douglas, Edgar Frost, Donny Colman, and the late Alec Spense and Tubby Langley, ably assisted by Nobby, Gerry, Kate, Dot Copling, Lily B, Jane Alderton and Charlie, Emma Reeve and Alice Sherwood, to name but a few, they organised the first portable free television service for old people in Loddon and Chedgrave. They alone were responsible for starting the 'Meals on Wheels' service in this area, and the service, thanks to them, is still going strong. All this and much more has been done by this gallant band, many of whom were giving Christian service to people who at the end, were years younger than themselves! I would especially like to thank Mary Sidney, who bravely carried the flag above and beyond the call of duty. She is still working for others well into her 80th year.

Their prayer might well be said by all of us: 'Teach us good Lord, to serve Thee as Thou deservest; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to ask for any reward save that of knowing that we do Thy will'.

Sid Stevenson
Loddon, Norfolk

Note: This letter was printed originally in the Loddon (Norfolk) Parish Magazine. Loddon Joint Branch closed last year but most of the members have retained District membership and many of them are still heavily involved in 'service' in their area.
—Editor

Note: Ken Western died in hospital in the early hours of 15 February. Some weeks before his death, he wrote the following letter to *Point Three*. We print Ken's letter now because it was his clear wish that his last message should reach us all.

—Editor

Before I shuffle off this mortal coil I must get one thing off my chest and that is my grateful thanks to all Toc H members and friends spread over the country. Since becoming a member about 30 years ago Toc H has been my spiritual guide, despite the misgivings that some have that we should play down its vital Christian side. We must remember that if Tubby had not listened to the voice of God in those dark days of the First World War, there would be no Toc H. There are so many individual friends of mine in Toc H that I hesitate to name them. My own friends in Tolworth Branch have been of great help to me. . . For the past two years I have been going through the agony of cancer pain, and lately it has greatly increased in intensity. I am now aware of the agony of those who sit and watch their loved ones suffer and, unable to bear it any longer, have ended the suffering of the beloved: please have sympathy with these folks. I shall be in hospital shortly for a 'rest' and the signs and symptoms are that I shall not leave in the approved manner. However, if you wish to know my thoughts about this, it's simply this: I put my trust in God that He will give me the courage to face the end knowing that having given my life into His service, I am His for ever.

Once again my grateful thanks to all. Keep smiling, God Bless.

Ken Western
Surbiton, Surrey

Pupils from King Edward the Seventh School gathered at Melton Mowbray's Branch rooms to pack some of the 300 Christmas parcels provided for elderly people by local charitable organisations.



Photo: Leicester Mercury

What's happening at CUDDESDON?

Photos: Scott Shaw



The start of a new era

by Andy James

Photo: Andy James



'Who's For Croquet?' or is it a working party in the 'rough'?

Photo: Andy James



You'll know one of those to blame if the dining tables collapse!

The SE Region's Leaders' Training Weekend was fortunate in getting the first booking at Cuddesdon House and I was lucky enough to be the first name in the visitor's book (that's what I call good pre-planning!). We were given a bright and cheerful welcome by Clare and David Currant as we sat down to supper. Despite the new venue, a familiar programme for this type of weekend had been arranged starting with 'getting to know you' games. A good game was 'find your bedroom!' After opening two broom cupboards, who was to know that two bedrooms lurked behind the third door? As time passed, more people found their beds and took to them – as if they knew of the rigours they were to face in the ensuing 36 hours.

On Saturday morning, various bodies descended on the dining room and, of course, there was porridge for breakfast! But the talking had to start and the introductory session enlightened the assembled masses, and, of course, as always, there was a work session in and around the house.

But the main session of the weekend was to veer somewhat from the norm. For several years, Barnet's Multiple Sclerosis Society and Toc H have been running a holiday for the physically handicapped and this year it is to be held at Cuddesdon. Problem:— How will the locale take to wheelchairs and the wheelchairs to the locale? So, a mini-wheelchair survey of Oxford was undertaken, embracing access to shops, refreshment areas, toilets, entertainments, etc, in the city whilst another group discovered the best application of the house to wheelchair and handicap use and access to and around the grounds. Not only would all this information be invaluable to Clare and David, both for this and other projects to be run there, but it also gave everyone a good insight



Parties from Wendover spent two days helping David and Clare prepare for the first weekend party at Cuddesdon House.



Alison House

Please note this addition to the Alison House programme published in last month's issue.

6 - 8 June 1980 Leisure Weekend
Hostess: Violet Walker

All enquiries, please to: Alan Robson,
Alison House, Intake Lane, Cromford,
Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3RH.
(Tel: 062 982 2316)

into the pre-planning necessary before any project can be run.

Evening brought, as ever, the piece de resistance of our weekend – the role play session, when four groups discuss four 'project problems' and then re-enact the problem and solution. After much earnest discussion it was time for our own version of 'Armchair Theatre' – no Oscars awarded but having seen the portrayal of a projects committee member visiting a project, I shall be a bit wary with such visits this summer! And so it went on – all very amusing but also instructive. Later in the evening the local hostelry was visited by some and useful contacts made. Others stayed behind and carried on talking (some people never stop!). Various silly games were played into the early hours – in fact one body was going to bed as another was rising to visit the church at the bottom of the garden – for the 8 am service!

Unfortunately Sunday proved to be very wet but it didn't dampen anybody's spirits. The session focussed on the House's lamp and concluded with Light, the first experience for some, and the time just steadily slipped by until it was time to go, with cars and minibus disappearing into the Oxfordshire sunset! (All very romantic but it wasn't quite like that – anyway, most of us went east!).

Overall then an enjoyable weekend, and the new venue – excellent! To emerge from the main meeting room to see the sweeping staircase with its red carpet and blue walls bathed in light from the overhanging chandelier was very uplifting (how else do you get to the first floor!). By the time you read this, many more will have stayed there and hopefully enjoyed the venue as much as I did. Now I'm just looking forward to my next weekend at Cuddesdon, whenever it may be.



'No, Judi, it's not a toothbrush!' Cuddesdon House's picture windows will provide regular employment for visitors.



'Yes, we'll put it here!' Matthew plus working party discuss the site for a climbing frame. On the left is Paul Currant – likely to be the most frequent user!



'Me Tarzan – you bananas!' Sussex leader Matthew Allen puts his handiwork to the test.

Photo: Andy James

Photo: Andy James

Photo: Jonathan Bach

Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 3p a word (minimum 30p) to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Telephone: 0296 623911.



Bruges, Belgium. Hotel Jacobs, (established 50 years) welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of the coast. Comfortable, modernised hotel. Parking. English spoken. Quiet situation. Strongly recommended. Bed and breakfast only. Mr Jules Lietaert, Hotel Jacobs, Baliestraat 1, Bruges. 8000. Telephone: 010-32-50 3398 31/32.

Weymouth - Bed, breakfast and evening meal. Weekend breaks £12.00, weeks from £35. Open all year. Bar, free parking, reductions for children. Small coach parties also welcome. Mrs Cole, Kirtleton House, 21 Kirtleton Avenue, Weymouth. Telephone: (0305) 785296.

North Buckinghamshire. For properties in the area between £10,000 and £30,000, please contact Bonner & Son, Chartered Surveyors, 12 Market Square, Buckingham. Telephone 028 02 2301.

Keen collector requires pre-1930 Postcards. Will make generous offers. Contact: Mrs Cook, 42 Forest Way, Highcliffe, Christchurch, Dorset. Telephone: (04252) 4941.

Christian Penfriends Nationwide. Singles holidays. Weekend Houseparties. Local groups. Sincere males specially welcomed. Details: C F Fellowship, Dept/B23, Edenthorpe, Doncaster. (SAE)

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD1 3HE.

POPERINGE 1980. May 12 - 16 includes Procession of the Holy Blood in Bruges. June 2 - 7 includes trip to Somme Battlefields in France. Full details of these Parties, stamp please, Skegg Blanchard, 98 Rogers House, Page Street, London SW1.

INCOME TAX FOR TOC H

Would you like to see your Income Tax being used by Toc H in your Region rather than swallowed up in the National Budget of the country?

You can easily change the use of your Income Tax by signing a Deed of Covenant for Toc H.

At the standard rate of Income Tax, 30%, you will have had to receive £1.43 gross to finish with £1 in your pocket. For every £1 you pay to Toc H on a Deed of Covenant we can reclaim your 43 pence Income Tax for your Regional funds.

You do not have to increase the amount you now contribute to the Family Purse either by weekly/monthly payments to your Branch treasurer or by your annual payment direct to HQ.

All you need to do is complete a Deed of Covenant Form agreeing to pay Toc H for seven years your self assessment contribution.

Please complete the form below and send it to me as soon as possible.



To George Barnett — Finance Secretary — Wendover

Please send me a Deed of Covenant Form

(Please tick as appropriate)

I am a Builder

I am a member and pay my contribution to my Branch treasurer

I am a member and pay my contribution direct to Wendover

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Mr/Mrs/Miss

Address